

THE CRUMB

Vol. XXV

August 16, 1950

No. 1

Middlebury College and the Conference staff welcome you cordially. This bulletin, THE CRUMB, is the official newspaper of the Conference, and will be left each morning at your place in the dining-room. It will contain notices of lectures, discussions, and other activities of the Conference.

REGISTRATION

All members of the Conference are asked to register as soon as possible, during the hours named below.

(1) Immediately after going to your room and disposing of your baggage, complete payment of fees with Miss Hopkins and Mr. Hope, the business representatives of Middlebury College, either from 11:00 to 12:30 in the morning or from 2:00 to 5:30 in the afternoon. Even if your fees are paid in full, kindly see Miss Hopkins at this time so that the Conference records may be complete.

(2) Then register with the Director of the Conference, Mr. Morrison, who will be in his office during the same hours. If you are a Contributor, bring your manuscripts with you at this time. Late arrivals may register immediately after dinner.

OPENING MEETING

At 8:00 o'clock this evening the opening meeting of the Conference will be held in the Little Theatre. The Director will outline the program and offer suggestions for making the best possible use of it. After this meeting all Conference members are invited to meet informally in the Club Room in the Barn.

MEAL HOURS

Breakfast.....	8:00 to 8:30
Lunch.....	1:00 to 1:15
Dinner.....	6:15 to 6:30

Late breakfast and afternoon and evening snacks may be obtained for a small charge at the Conference Club Room in the Barn.

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Thursday
August 17, 1950.

No.2

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:15 Mr. Morrison: Showing and Telling

10:30 Mr. Sloane: The World of Fiction

11:45 Miss Bowen: Plotting the Biography

2:30 Mr. Ciardi: The Value of Bad Poetry

EVENING LECTURE

8:00 Mr. Sloane will be the evening speaker. His topic: Korea Revisited

BOOKSTORE HOURS

The Bookstore, next to the Director's Office, carries many books by Conference staff and members, and limited stationery supplies. It will be open daily (except Sundays and Saturday evenings) during the half-hour after each meal. Mr. Donald Putnam is the Bookstore Manager.

BARN SCHEDULE

The lunch counter in the Barn is open daily at the following hours: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., 3:30 - 5:00 p.m., and 9:30 - 11:00 p.m.

LIBRARY HOURS

The Library, down the stone path beyond the Little Theatre, will be open daily 10:00 to 12:00 a.m. and 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Miss Elizabeth Hassinger is the Conference Librarian.

CONFERENCE FELLOWS

Will all of the Fellows kindly meet with Dean Fletcher Pratt at three-thirty this afternoon for introductory boot-camp training in their duties, formal and informal?

NO PARKING, PLEASE

A highway law, enforced by the State Police, prohibits parking on the road in front of the Inn and cottages. Members are urged to use the parking lots in front of the Barn and beyond Maple Cottage.

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Friday
August 18, 1950.

No.3

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

- 9:15 Miss Finnin: What They Wish They Had Known
10:30 Mr. Saxton: The Novel: Elements of Structure
11:45 Mr. Pratt: Method in Non-Fiction
2:30 Mr. Wilbur: Some Remarks on Form

EVENING LECTURE

8:00 Miss Bowen will be the speaker this evening. Her topic: The Nature of the Artist or The Articulate Man

DISPLAY OF BOOKS

Mr. Putnam, Bookstore Manager, will exhibit books written by staff and Conference members this evening in the Blue Parlor. This room is just beyond the Director's Office. The books will be on display and on sale from 6:45 to 8:00.

CONFERENCE NURSE

Mrs. Jane Wilkinson, R.N., is available for consultation by Conference members for a period after each meal hour in the dispensary in Maple Cottage #2. At other times she is on call via the Front Desk.

NEWSPAPERS

The N. Y. Times and Herald Tribune, daily or Sunday, may be ordered at the Front Desk.

BOOKSTORE SERVICE

Members who wish books autographed by authors present at Bread Loaf should place identifying slips in such books and leave them with the Bookstore Manager. It is a convenience to the authors to be able to sign a number of books at one time.

CASHING CHECKS

Members who may intend to cash checks locally should consult the Front Desk immediately. Checks on distant banks can probably not be cleared during the Conference session.

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Saturday
August 19, 1950.

No.4

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:15 Mr. Morrison: Point of View

10:30 Mr. Sloane: Beginning the Novel

11:45 Miss Bowen: Some Difficulties of the Biographer

EVENING LECTURE

8:00 Mr. Frost will be the speaker this evening.

MAGAZINE DISPLAY

A large collection of magazines of all kinds is now on display in the Barn. As this has been arranged for the convenience of the whole Conference, members are asked not to remove copies from the Clubroom.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found articles may be reported or turned in at the Front Desk. To advertise a lost article in the Crumb, kindly leave a brief item on the Director's desk.

TAXI

Members who wish to go to Middlebury for church services tomorrow may sign at the Front Desk for a trip of the Bread Loaf taxi. If any members who are driving down in their own cars wish to take passengers, they may indicate this at the Desk.

LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING

Laundry arrangements may be made with various of the chambermaids or at the Front Desk. While these services have always proved reliable, the management assumes no responsibility for them.

Clothes to be dry-cleaned may be left at the Desk on Monday morning. They will be returned on Thursday.

THE OLD WAGON WHEEL

There's dancing to be had tonight, square figures and polkas, by them that'll drive down the road toward Ripton a piece and follow the signs leading to The Old Wagon Wheel. Mr. Preble and his friends do the fiddling and tooting. The fun comes high, though, \$1.20 for couples and 75¢ for others.

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Sunday
August 20, 1950.

No.5

THE CONFERENCE FELLOWS, 1950

The Conference each year offers a limited number of fellowships to writers recommended by publishers, editors, agents or other sponsors. Some of these fellowships have been made possible by support outside the Conference itself, and we wish to make grateful acknowledgement of this support, past and present, from publishing houses and from individuals who know our work.

This year we welcome the following Conference Fellows:

Thaddeus Ashby, Oklahoman by birth but New Yorker by nature, had his schooling in Michigan and his higher education from Northwestern, Michigan, Harvard and the Air Corps. For different periods totaling four years he was engaged in the steel industry. His work as a free lance writer in reporting a steel strike won him recognition from the Chicago Tribune and from The Reader's Digest, by whom he was nominated for his Bread Loaf Fellowship. He is working now upon a novel of the steel industry.

Roger W. Eddy, of Newington, Conn., makes a successful combination of writing and dairy farming. He was educated at Loomis School and Yale, and emerged from six years in the Infantry with the rank of major. His first novel, The Rimless Wheel, was published in 1947 by Macmillan, who nominated him for his Fellowship. His second novel, now in progress, deals with the social forces active in a New England town.

Robert H. Lucas, of Chicago, has had a varied writing career. After graduating from Roosevelt College, he entered the Federal Writers' Project, and followed this with two years of newspaper reporting. He became associate editor of Ebony and writer for the radio program, Democracy, U.S.A. In 1948 he held a Rosenwald Fellowship for Writing and Radio. Since then, as a free lance writer, he has written for magazines, radio, television and the movies. He was nominated for his Fellowship by Tomorrow Magazine. At present he has a novel under way.

Jose Pena was born and brought up in southern Texas, and his interest in the people of that region dominate his plans for writing. He was educated in Brownville Junior College and Wake Forest College, diversifying this with four years of army service and a year of medical school. He was nominated by Miss Rowe Wright, literary agent, and by Professor Dorothy Brewster of Columbia, where he is currently enrolled in the Graduate School. He is at work upon a novel of Latin American

life in Texas.

Elizabeth Spenser is an instructor in English in the University of Mississippi. She began to write during her undergraduate days at Bellhaven College and during her graduate study at Vanderbilt. Her first novel, Fire in the Morning, was published by Dodd, Mead and Co. in 1948. This, with her second novel now in progress, deals with the Southern scene. The current Virginia Quarterly Review carries her short story, "Pilgrimage." She was nominated by Dodd, Mead.

Mary-Elizabeth Witherspoon was born in Florida, went to college in North Carolina, and lives now with her husband and two sons in Knoxville, Tennessee. The years in between included some newspaper writing, particularly work as columnist on a small paper. A novel of hers, Somebody Speak for Katy, a character study of two sisters, is to be published by Dodd, Mead in September. She was nominated for her Fellowship by Dodd, Mead.

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Monday
August 21, 1950.

No. 6

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:15 Miss Finnin: What They're Looking For Now

10:30 Mr. Sloane: The Dynamics of the Novel

11:45 Mr. Pratt: The Material of Non-Fiction

2:30 Mr. Ciardi: The Working-out of a Poem

EVENING LECTURE

8:00 The speaker this evening will be Mark Van Doren.

BOOKS ON HAND

Books currently of interest in the Bookstore stock are Mark Van Doren's New Poems and his Noble Voice, interpretations of nine great poems from Homer to Wordsworth. The books listed yesterday in the Fellowship notice are in stock: Mr. Eddy's The Rimless Wheel and Miss Spencer's Fire in the Morning. Some copies of the various collections of Mr. Frost's poems are still available.

LOST

A brown leather brief case was misplaced recently in the vicinity of the coat room and was apparently picked by mistake. Will members owning similar brief cases kindly inspect them to see if they are twins?

BRIDGE PLAYERS?

Anyone seeking opportunity for bridge should indicate this at the Front Desk. A few have already done so.

WASH DAY

Tubs and ironing boards are available in the laundry in the rear basement of Hoi Polloi Cottage. Irons may be borrowed at the Front Desk.

MAPLE SYRUP

Grade A maple syrup, in one-half or one gallon cans only, is available at the Front Desk. The Desk will package these cans for mailing if this desired.

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Tuesday
August 22, 1950.

No. 7

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

- 9:15 Mr. Morrison: Thinking Out the Story as a Whole
10:30 Mr. Saxton: The Novel Is People
11:45 Miss Bowen: More Problems of the Biographer
2:30 Mr. Wilbur: Something About Reality

EVENING LECTURE

8:00 Mr. Pratt will speak this evening on: The Crisis of History

COFFEE

After-dinner coffee will be served in the Blue Parlor this evening.

FREE COPIES

Mr. Pratt's compilation of fiction and non-fiction magazine subjects, January to June, 1950, may be had in the Director's Office.

BOOKSTORE NOTES

*Mr. Putnam reports that John Adams has sold out but that Justice Holmes is still somewhat available.**Mr. Morrison's new long poem, The Dream of Alcestis, will not be published until October 20, but the Viking Press proposes an arrangement for the autographing of copies ordered through the Bookstore.**The books autographed by Messrs. Ciardi and Wilbur, Miss Bowen and the Reys, may be reclaimed now at the Bookstore.**Of current interest are Mr. Pratt's books in stock: Eleven Generals, The Marines' War, and The Third King.**Pebbles in the Sky has sold out; other members' books still available are Mrs. Talbot's And That's No Lie, Miss Kissen's collection of tales for children, The Crowded House, and several books for children by the Reys.**The notice yesterday should have included Mark Van Doren's Shakespeare as well as his New Poems and Noble Voice** Have you looked at the Wedgwood plate decorated with Bread Loaf scenes?

RIDING ACADEMY

Tyro equestrians will be taught the principles of horsemanship (on the ambler or great horse) by Miss Anne Morrison. For best results, the students' legs should be not more than 2'7" long. For appointments and rates, telephone 15-M1 or consult Miss Morrison around the premises.

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Wednesday
August 23, 1950.

No.8

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

- 9:15 Miss Finnin: Why a Lot of Them Go Back
10:30 Mr. Saxton: Dialogue in the Novel
11:45 Mr. Pratt: Highbrow Lecture on Style
2:30 Mr. Ciardi: What Is Modern Poetry?

EVENING MEETING

8:00 Mr. Ciardi and Mr. Wilbur will read from their poems this evening.

GROUP MEETINGS?

At the request of members, a checklist of the Conference has been posted on the bulletin board near the Director's Office. Members who indicate their literary interests here will promote the possibility of group discussions or informal meetings.

VERMONT BOOKSHOP

Members who inquired for Bernard DeVoto's World of Fiction are advised that it is in stock in Dyke Blair's Vermont Bookshop in Middlebury. This bookshop has attracted wide attention in the trade because of the modern departures it has made in the economical use of space in the attractive display of books, and because of the intelligence of its selection of stock.

BOOKSTORE NOTES

*Books autographed by Messrs. Van Doren, Pratt and Morrison are ready and may be reclaimed by their owners.**Max Wyllie's Radio and Television Writing is in stock.**One copy of Van Doren's New Poems which was left for autographing lacks its owner's name. Will the owner please reclaim it?*

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Thursday
August 24, 1950.

No.9

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:30 Mrs. Rex, with Miss Finnin and Mr. Morrison, will hold a clinic on the short story.

11:00 Non-Fiction Clinic: What Shall We Write About?
Mr. Pratt, with Miss Bowen, Mrs. Rex and Mr. Lucas.

2:30 A clinic on verse will be held by Mr. Ciardi and Mr. Wilbur.

EVENING LECTURE

8:00 Lincoln Barnett will be the speaker this evening.
His topic: Writing On Life

SUBJECT MATTER FOR ARTICLES

Members attending the eleven o'clock non-fiction clinic this morning are asked to submit suggestions for article topics to the panel. These subjects for proposed articles may be handed in in writing at the beginning of the hour or submitted from the floor later.

OF CURRENT INTEREST

The Bookstore has a few copies left of Lincoln Barnett's The Universe and Dr. Einstein.

EXTRA SEAT?

Any driver interested in a share-expense passenger at the end of the session, either to Canaan, Conn., or Millerton, N.Y., should consult Mrs. Alison Thomson, P.O. Box 26.

GROUP PICTURES

Group pictures have been taken of (1) staff and (2) fellows. Prints of these will not be ready during the Conference session, but they may be ordered for mailing later at 75¢ prepaid, each.

Will members wishing to order these kindly enclose name, forwarding address and correct change in an envelope and leave in the Director's Office?

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Friday
August 25, 1950

No.10

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:30 Novel Clinic: Messrs. Raney, Saxton and Sloane

11:00 Nannine Joseph will speak to the Conference on the topic: Literature as Business.

2:30 A clinic on verse will be held by Mr. Ciardi and Mr. Wilbur.

EVENING LECTURE

8:00 Max Wylie will be the speaker this evening. His topic: Writing for Radio and Television-- the Problems and Opportunities

DEPARTURE SLIPS

The Front Desk will distribute questionnaires concerning railway tickets, details of baggage, etc., at the noon meal. Kindly fill these in and return them as soon as possible after receiving them so that the Desk can estimate the transportation facilities required.

CASHING CHECKS

It is no longer possible to cash checks on banks more distant than Boston or New York. After today the Front Desk will be unable to cash checks on any except local banks.

BOOKSTORE NOTES

*A final display of books by Conference authors will be held this evening in the Blue Parlor from 6:45 to 7L45.**There are still a few copies of The Universe and Dr. Einstein.**Our second order of John Adams has arrived and will be on sale today.**Will the owners of books autographed by Messrs. Frost, Ciardi, Wilbur and Morrison kindly reclaim them at the Bookstore?*

TRAVELERS

Rides wanted: 1 to Albany, 2 to Boston. Will the possessors of extra seats kindly communicate with Harry Heine-man, Box 105?

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Saturday
August 26, 1950.

No.11

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:30 Short Story Clinic: Mr. Morrison, Mrs. Rex, Mr. Pratt, and Miss Finnin

11:00 A Non-Fiction Clinic on the Interview: Messrs. Pratt, Saxton and Robeson Bailey

A COUNTRY WALK?

From four to five o'clock this afternoon Mr. Frost and Mr. and Mrs. Morrison will be at home to Conference members at the Homer Noble Farm. Drive down,-but better walk down if the weather is good. You'll find the Homer Noble mail box about a twenty minutes' walk down the Ripton road. Take your time and plan on making the acquaintance of Steeplebush, Shadbush, Curranty, Candy and Mark Twain. For non-walkers, non-drivers and stragglers, the Bread Loaf truck will leave the Inn porch around three-thirty.

EVENING LECTURE

8:00 John Mason Brown will be the speaker this evening. It is expected that he will talk on tragedy and its treatment in the modern theater.

BOOKSTORE NOTES

*As Lincoln Barnett was called away by an emergency, he was unable to autograph copies of his books. Will the owners kindly reclaim them at the Bookstore? **Other books for autographing must be left in the Bookstore before 2 p.m. on Monday. ** A few copies have arrived of Malcolm Ross' The Man Who Lived Backward*

ALUMNI

The Conference takes pleasure in welcoming many of its former members who have returned to Bread Loaf over the week-end.

THE OLD WAGON WHEEL

is still rolling. See the poster beside the Front Desk.

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Sunday
August 27, 1950

No.12

LEISURELY MERCHANDIZING

For members who have been asking for John Mason Brown's Seeing More Things, the Bookstore will be open from 8:45 to 9:30 this morning.

WEEK-ENDERS

After the mid-day meal today coffee will be served in the Blue Parlor for the members who have returned for the anniversary week-end.

HORSEMANSHIP

A gymkhana will be held this afternoon, 1:30 to 5:30, on the Ethel Dragon farm near Lake Dunmore. All sorts of specialty horse races and equestrian stunts will be demonstrated. Drive to the Hotel Dunmore and then follow the signs or ask your way. Admission for adults, 40¢.

FRIENDLY EVENING

Mr. Frost will be up this evening for an off-schedule appearance in the Little Theater. It'll be around eight o'clock-- just listen for the bell.

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Monday
August 28, 1950

No. 13

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:30 Novel Clinic: Messrs. Sloane, Raney and Saxton

11:00 Non-Fiction Clinic: Mr. Pratt and Miss Bowen

2:30 Nannine Joseph will speak on the topic: Why
an Agent?

EVENING MEETING

7:30 Two events of very great interest are scheduled for this evening. Owen Lattimore will be the speaker; it is expected that he will discuss freedom of expression. Shortly after his lecture, the Middlebury College Composers' Conference, directed by Alan Carter, will give a concert, also in the Little Theatre. In order to include both of these events in the evening program, Mr. Lattimore will begin to speak at seven-thirty.

RIPTON COMMUNITY HOUSE

Our Ripton neighbors are putting on a supper this evening at six o'clock in the Community House. The charge per person is \$1.00. For those who want to take the ride down, hearty fare and a hearty welcome.

COMPOSERS' CONFERENCE

The Middlebury College Composers' Conference, to members of which we shall be hosts this evening, is now holding its fifth annual session. As its sessions have been concurrent with the Writers' Conference, we have had the pleasure of several concerts from them in the past. Their organization includes not only the conference on composition but also a Chamber Music Center with which many distinguished musicians are actively engaged.

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Tuesday
August 29, 1950

No. 14

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

9:30 Short Story Clinic: Miss Finnin, Mrs. Rex and Mr. Morrison

11:00 Novel Clinic: Messrs. Raney, Saxton and Sloane

2:30 Verse Clinic: Messrs. Ciardi and Wilbur

BANQUET AND ENTERTAINMENT

6:30 The dining-room will open this evening for the Conference Banquet at six-thirty. The after-dinner speaking will be brief.

Following the Banquet, the Conference will adjourn to the Little Theatre for an entertainment of unusual piano varieties by Claude Simpson.

FINAL PROGRAM TOMORROW

The final meeting of the Conference will be a joint discussion tomorrow morning, beginning at 9:30, at which most members of the staff will be present. The meeting will end at 11:00 or 11:30, but members whose taxis are leaving during the morning should feel free to enter or leave the meeting at their convenience.

Because many members will be leaving during the early afternoon, lunch tomorrow will be served at 12:15. Kindly note well!

LIBRARY

Library books should be returned before noon tomorrow.

BOOKSTORE

The Bookstore will cease firing at 7:15 this evening. Some autographed books are still unclaimed by their owners. If not called for by closing time this evening, these books will be left at the Front Desk.

Five copies of Owen Lattimore's recent book, Ordeal by Slander, have been sent up from the Vermont Bookshop and are on sale here. It is the story of Mr. Lattimore's struggle against the accusations of an otherwise obscure senator.

THE CRUMB

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Wednesday
August 30, 1950

No.15

MORNING MEETING

9:30 Members of the staff will join in a discussion and review of topics previously treated in Conference meetings. Members whose taxis will leave during the morning should feel free to drop in on the meeting during the time at their disposal.

EARLY LUNCH

For the convenience of members leaving for trains, lunch today will be served at 12:15. Will everyone kindly take note of this hour?

LIBRARY BOOKS

Have you any? They are due in the Library before 12:00.

TIMES OF DEPARTURE

Will anyone who has changed his travel plans kindly keep the Front Desk informed of such changes so that proper transportation can be furnished?

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A Note on Some Aspects of the Clerihew

THE FIRST ascertainable reference to St. Clerihew the Characterizer has been traced by Professor Ricard Vileburr to the 3rd edition of Legenda Aurea of Jacobus de Voragine. (This is the famous Alexandrian Scroll Edition from the Papyrus Press of Twayne Publishers, Alexandria, 660 A.D., on which was based the pocket-scroll edition by Balentinus the Incliner.) ST. CLERIHEW (born Publius Cleriaeus Secundarius and not to be confused with later imposters of the same, or indeed any other, middle name-- cf. Prof. M. Mahlonieren: Kunstkultur und Heissenspiel im Mittelalter) does indeed emerge from the mists of time in cloudy circumstances. But "through the nebulous to the nebulae," as Bishop Arrowsmith of the Fundament so aptly observed upon first deciphering the Bread Loaf Palimpsest, Codex 1921A.

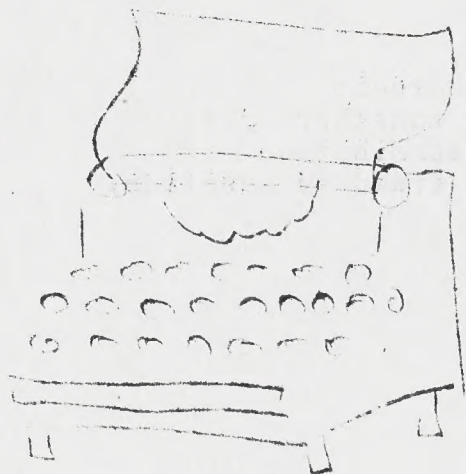
ACCORDING TO de Voragine, St. Clerihew was an itinerant monk noted for his ability to cover ground. His first miracle occurred in the vicinity of Mons Panua where he overtook a poor woman in the last stages of a sonnet seizure. St. Clerihew bound her with four lines and "gave her of his understanding," as de Voragine reports. His words made her whole at once, and she arose restored to her unscrubbed kitchen, distraught husband and weeping children. Also he is said to have walked from Lower Manhattan to Bread Loaf Inn in a single session, converting 11 story writers, 3 science fiction writers, 4 agents, and poets without number. From that day forward, not one of these sinned again in the word. The Era of the Glorious Silence, should it ever arrive, may well be said to stem from this miracle.

ON HIS death bed, St. Clerihew's only words were: "My feet are killing me." Thereupon there appeared to him a three-legged angel and a one-legged cherub who bore him up while a great voice called through the skies: "THUS ONLY SHALL YE BE UP-RAISED WHO SCAN NOT."

HE LIES buried in the Basilica of St. Manuscript under a simple slab of marble upon which there appears annually on the day of his death the single word

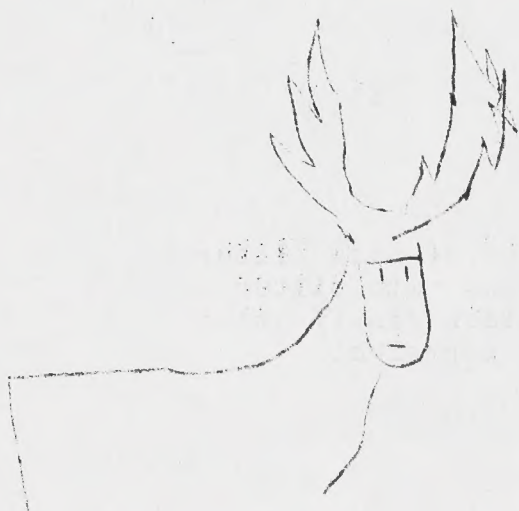
"STET"

William Sloane
Is the man to bemoan
The libidinous practices
Of various actresses.



Rachel Mackenzie
In a fine frenzy
Refused to keep silence
About all this violence

The children of Ciardi
Are bound to be hardy
If they do their dreamin'
In the precincts of Treman.



As part of his orison
Dr. Theodore Morrison
Will have no meat
But Shredded Wheat.

When seen in town
Richard L. Brown
Is a different man
From the one we scan.



$$E = MC^2$$

Lincoln Barnett
Will get somewhere yet
But his termination
Can't be fixed by equation.

When Jessamyn West
Is doing her best
Nobody walks
Away from her talks.



The head of Dick Wilbur
If plated with silbur
Would look simply great
As a paperweight.

Fletcher's wife Inga
Drank a stinger.
Then drank another.

Oh, BROTHER!



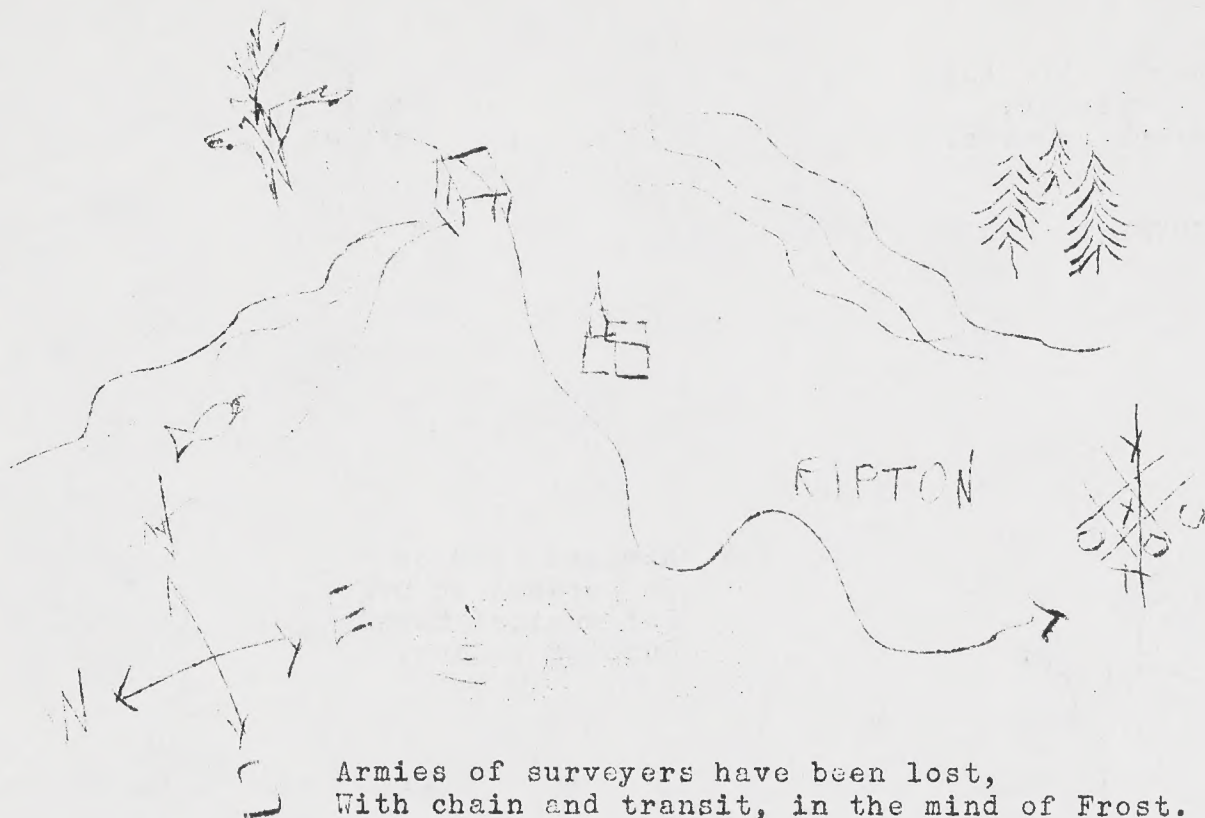
Rowland Sturges
Is subject to urges
For musical hams
Such as Brahms.

Concerning the honor
Of Frank O'Connor,
Not much can be said:
He's not dead.



Circumstances
Are Secondari
When guys and dolls
Get blithe and merry.

Respice Finem



Armies of surveyers have been lost,
With chain and transit, in the mind of Frost.



The three-ring sign
Of Ballantine
Gives publishers doses
Of obscure neuroses.

Eric Swenson
Hung on an immense one.
Next day in clinic
He behaved like a cynic.



Similis Simili Gaudet